

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1-16 to bring them more in line with typical U.S. form and have added new claims 17-25. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119:

The outstanding Office Action has acknowledged Applicants' claim for foreign priority. To perfect their claim, Applicants are filing concurrently herewith a certified copy of the priority document – namely, Finnish Patent Application No. 20002899, filed on December 29, 2000. Acknowledged receipt thereof is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Specification:

As suggested in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants have amended the specification to include various section headings. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 2286505A to Robinson et al. ("Robinson"). Claims 1, 15 and 16 are independent.

Applicants' invention, as defined by amended claim 1 is directed to a method comprising: supplying user identification data of said first wireless communication device to said second wireless communication device; and making a contact from said second wireless communication device to its own communications network on the basis of the user identification

data of said first wireless communication device for communicating information between the first wireless communication device and said communications network via said second wireless communication device.

As far as mobile communications networks are concerned, there exist two different levels of identification. These are: Terminal identification; and User (or subscriber) identification. Claim 1, as amended, is directed to the latter.

User identification data, as recited in amended claim 1, may be, for example, an IMSI (International Mobile Subscriber Identity) code, as used in GSM systems or the like. The purpose of the IMSI code in a mobile network is to identify the subscriber in the mobile network. Thus, it is the user, rather than the device, that is identified to the network by the IMSI code. The subscriber typically pays a monthly fee for his right to use the network and various services provided by the network. However, the terminal used (or its device address) plays no role in that respect.

One of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the IMSI code includes the following:

$$\text{IMSI} = \text{MCC} + \text{MNC} + \text{MSIN},$$

i.e., it comprises a Mobile Country Code (MCC) determining the subscriber's country, a Mobile Network Code (MNC) determining the operator used by the subscriber, and lastly a Mobile Subscriber Identification Number (MSIN) determining the subscriber number, which provides an identification of the subscriber for the network.

That is to say that the IMSI code uniquely identifies the user or subscriber to the network. The IMSI code is typically stored in a user data identification module, such as a

Subscriber Identity Module (SIM card or the like) which, in turn, is accessible by using a Personal Identification Number (PIN).

In contrast, Robinson is directed to terminal identification through the use of a terminal address, whereas Applicants' invention, as defined by amended claim 1, is directed to contacting the network with the aid of, as previously discussed, user (or subscriber) identification data, such as the IMSI code.

More particularly, Robinson is directed to a system in which a terminal operating in a direct mode can communicate with a mobile network with the aid of a gateway terminal. The gateway terminal operates with the direct mode terminal via a direct mode link and enables a special third-party registration, which in turn, enables the communication of the terminal with the mobile network with the aid of the gateway terminal.

However, the device address disclosed in Robinson (see page 4, line 3) clearly is not "user identification data", as required by amended claim 1; it identifies the device, rather than a user (or subscriber). Thus, Robinson also does not teach "making a contact" to the mobile communications network with the aid of the gateway terminal "on the basis of user identification data" of the direct mode terminal.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Robinson. Claims 15 and 16, as amended, contain limitations similar to those found in claim 1, and thus, are allowable for at least the same reasons as set forth above in urging the allowance of claim 1.

Dependent Claims:

Applicants do not believe it necessary at this time to address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in

condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

AUTHORIZATION

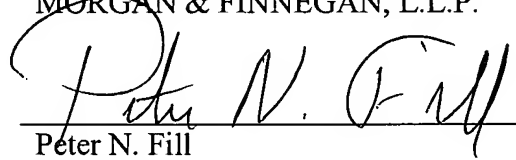
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4072. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4072. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 15, 2005

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